

Basilio Chi
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Táan u kiimil u yaalab u kúul che'e', táan xan u xu'ulul le kuxtala'

(With the death of the last tree, life is over).

Good Morning My name is Basilio Velázquez Chí, I am of Mayan origin and I dedicate my efforts to strengthen the livelihoods of the Mayan communities of Quintana Roo, through the sustainable management of natural resources.

I am part of the Global Committee of Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples for dialogue with subnational government members of the GCF. I have come here to express mine and our communities support of the standard being discussed today, which provides the elements and framework to ensure the conservation of our natural resources, our culture and livelihood.

Throughout the years, the Mayan communities, we have taken care of our jungles and lived in harmony with nature, in the context of our idiosyncrasy and way of seeing life, our customs and traditions, these jungles, are what give us life and give life to the planet.

However, in recent years, these natural resources are being pressured by the lack of economic opportunities and livelihoods in our communities, where our people, due to this situation, are forced to abandon their lands and the management of their resources to go out in search of employment, sometimes get rid of their lands or deforest them to generate economic resources, even take control of unsustainable practices in order to access economic resources that allow them to survive.

Mayan communities, families, men and women, we develop our own initiatives for the management and conservation of our natural resources, but they need to be strengthened to improve the quality of life and become permanent means and guarantee the conservation of the jungles where we live , as well as the important environmental services the jungle provides.

For our communities, it is important that the government of California approves the Tropical Forests standard because it represents a model of safeguards for the communities that protect their jungles and forests. The principles of collaboration included in the standard, have been designed and approved by GCF members and encompass the main rights of indigenous peoples and local communities recognized in Mexico and internationally.

This standard will provide the opportunity for our region to replicate the California model in order to strengthen our communities, guarantee the protection of natural resources and contribute to climate change solutions.

If this standard is not endorsed, we run the risk that these natural resources that we all need, are lost and are irrecoverable, making the climatic situation that we all worry about more serious.

The solution is in our hands.

Thank you.